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Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space

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Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

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* A/AC.105/C.2/L.292.

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III. Replies received from permanent observers of the Committee

International Law Association

[15 November 2013]

An illustrative example of international cooperation between industrialized and developing countries is provided by the SAC-D/Aquarius mission, in which a scientific space vehicle designed and built in Argentina was launched by the United States of America on 10 June 2011 from Vandenberg, California. It was positioned in low Earth orbit and takes one hour to go round the Earth. It is equipped with advanced technology to measure the temperature of the sea and levels of salinity. Among its many other applications, it has the capacity to detect the effects of cosmic radiation on electronic equipment and the position of microparticles and space debris. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration was responsible for the launch and positioning in orbit, and the national space agencies of Canada and Italy, together with the Centre national d'études spatiales (CNES) of France, provided the instruments on board, while the National Institute for Space Research of Brazil made its facilities available for testing vibration and environmental resistance (see A/AC.105/C.2/100, p. 6). To date the results obtained by SAC-D/Aquarius mission are reported to be highly satisfactory.

Industrialized and developing countries have been active in recent years in the field of space law education.